

# REINVESTING IN YOUTH

## **A Regional Partnership**

### **2004 Third Quarter Report**

Dear Friends of Reinvesting in Youth:

We are pleased to provide you with this report on Reinvesting in Youth's activities during the third quarter of 2004. Reinvesting in Youth (RIY) and its partners continue to make significant progress toward our juvenile justice and youth services reform goals. Our goals are:

- To increase resources for proven, cost-effective, family focused services that reduces youth crime and save criminal justice and other deep-end system costs.
- To reinvest the resulting savings to sustain and expand research-based intervention and prevention programs throughout King County.
- To increase the capacity of community – based agencies in King County to serve high – risk youth and families.
- To reduce the disproportional involvement of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

## **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

### **1. Evidence-Based Program Expansion**

Based on current demand, the number of Functional Family therapists (FFT) on RIY funded teams is being reduced from eight to six, and the number of Multi-Systemic therapists (MST) is being increased from four to six.

Expansion of Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for up to 90 additional youth is scheduled for November 2004. ART has three components. In the “anger control” component, participants learn what triggers their anger and how to control their reactions. The "skill-streaming" behavioral component teaches a series of pro-social skills through modeling, role playing, and performance feedback. In the “moral reasoning” component, participants work through cognitive conflict through "dilemma" discussion groups. The program is run in groups of 8 to 10 juvenile offenders, which helps keep the per participant cost lower than individually-focused interventions.

During the quarter King County Superior Court used Reinvesting in Youth funds to hire Camilla Campbell as the project manager to coordinate training for the juvenile probation department and community providers. In 2004 the training will focus on the development of specific skills to engage youth and families into MST, FFT and ART with a particular emphasis on cultural competence.

Additional resources have been added to the RIY 2004-05 budgets to assure full implementation of quality assurance for Multi-systemic therapy. Quality Assurance for Functional Family Therapy and Aggression Replacement Training are in place.

When they reach full capacity RIY funded MST, FFT, and ART programs will serve 386 moderate to high-risk youth and families annually.

## 2. Evidence-Based Program Evaluation

The Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB) approved the JJIS evaluation design application on September 9, 2004, which has allowed TriWest to move forward on the analysis of existing data. TriWest is in the process of securing a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health to protect confidentiality of information gathered through interviews with participating youth.

## 3. Capacity Building

RIY has continued to develop and implement the capacity building strategy. The strategy focuses on promising program evaluations, cultural competency training and other technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of community-based agencies to serve high risk youth.

◆ ***Promising Program Evaluation*** – In July, Davis Ja & Associates conducted four half-day program evaluation workshops with the six community-based agencies selected for evaluation. During the workshops, topic areas addressed included articulating clear goals and objectives for each program, developing logic models, setting up an Excel database, entering/analyzing/graphing data, and interpreting cost analysis findings. In August, Davis Ja & Associates analyzed all the data collected from the community agencies. Based on the information, Mr. Ja developed a multi-site evaluation research design using a comparison matrix. The RIY Promising Program Evaluation Design Oversight Committee met in September and approved the evaluation design.

In September RIY negotiated a technical assistance contract with NPower, a non-profit agency with the mission to enhance other non-profits technology capacity. The contract authorizes NPower to provide the six agencies receiving program evaluations with substantial support in the form of hardware, software and consultant technical assistance in order to prepare them for evaluation implementation.

◆ ***Cultural Competency Assessment and Training*** – RIY and the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County (MEDC) finalized and signed a contract on June 3, 2004 to implement cultural competency assessment and training for six community based agencies. In the third quarter MEDC submitted final reports containing cultural competency assessment findings, conclusions and recommendations for Learning Disabilities Association of Washington, Renton Areas Youth Service Center, and Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons. In addition, MEDC conducted cultural competency assessments and prepared draft report of assessment findings, conclusions and recommendations for YMCA MetroCenter Branch, Safefutures Youth Center, and Atlantic Street Center. Technical assistance to support implementation of the action plans will follow. RIY and MEDC reviewed the outcome results of the first three assessments in August. There were several “lessons learned” which will be implemented in subsequent assessments.

A number of other agencies in King County have expressed an interest in receiving the cultural competency action plan and TA module. We expect to use RIY technical assistance dollars to accommodate that demand starting in late 2004.

◆ ***Technical Assistance/Best Practices*** – The RIY 2003-2006 budget allocates \$400,000 to technical assistance. The emphasis is on assistance that strengthens community-based agencies’

capacity to reduce the disproportional involvement of youth of color in the justice system. Since the beginning of 2004, RIY has contributed \$15,000 to the development of an “Elements of Successful Programs” portfolio focused on programs that serve high risk youth. We anticipate a final product by the end of 2004. An initial draft has been developed and has been reviewed by focus groups consisting primarily of service providers. RIY anticipates a final product to be available by November 1, 2004. We have delayed implementation of the technical assistance strategy in order to permit RIY technical assistance funds to be used to bring the *Elements of Successful Programs* into community-based agencies. We anticipate that that will occur over the course of 2005.

## **LEGISLATION / SUSTAINABILITY / FUTURE FUNDING STRATEGIES**

In 2003 RIY sponsored legislation that supported studies to “...evaluate, recommend, and report where appropriate, options for financial and other incentives designed to encourage local government investment in [evidence-based] programs. Among the incentives to be considered in those studies were those that “...reimburse local jurisdictions for a portion of the savings that accrue to the state as the result of local government investment in such programs.”

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy completed its study including recommendations for the implementation of a savings reinvestment strategy in July 2004. RIY is working with a bipartisan group of legislators from its steering committee and others to draft implementing legislation for introduction in the 2005 legislature. State House Appropriations committee staff has completed a first draft. An action plan has been developed to support passage of this legislation.

With respect to local government savings reinvestment, the King County Council has passed a resolution supporting a savings reinvestment study for King County. However, the study has been delayed pending the completion of the state study and pending a determination as to whether such a study is actually needed given the substantial commitment the County has already made to increased funding of proven programs.

While there are many challenges still to be met by RIY including final passage of the savings reinvestment legislation, significant progress is being made on many fronts. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to King County youth.

Sincerely,

Jim Street, Director  
Reinvesting in Youth

Darryl Cook, Deputy Director  
Reinvesting in Youth